

Kofa

National Wildlife Refuge

2011 Hunting Regulations and Information





*This blue goose,
designed by J.N.
“Ding” Darling, has
become the symbol
of the National
Wildlife Refuge
System.*

Kofa National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1939 and is managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The refuge encompasses 665,400 acres of pristine desert environment and is home to the unique desert bighorn sheep and the California fan palm, the only native palm in Arizona. Kofa Mountain barberry (a rare plant found only in Southwest Arizona) also occurs on the refuge. Other notable wildlife species found in the area include white-winged dove, desert tortoise, and desert kit fox. A wide variety of plant life is found throughout the refuge.

Bighorn sheep are found chiefly in the two mountain ranges that dominate the refuge landscape – the Kofa and Castle Dome Mountains. Although these mountains are not especially high, they are extremely rugged and rise sharply from the surrounding desert plains, providing excellent bighorn sheep habitat.

In the early part of the 20th Century, numerous mines were established throughout the refuge. One of the most notable mines was the “King Of Arizona Mine.” It gave the Kofa Mountains their name – “Kofa” which is contracted from “King Of Arizona.”

Most refuge roads are unmaintained and many of them are passable only by four-wheel drive vehicles. Some roads may be passable by two-wheel drive, high clearance vehicles (see map). Vehicles may be damaged by brush or rocks, or may become stuck in sandy areas. Before traveling on the refuge, visitors should contact refuge headquarters to learn of current conditions. There are no facilities on the refuge for towing, gasoline, sanitation, or drinking water.

Kofa Public Regulations brochures are available at the Refuge headquarters in Yuma and in pamphlet boxes located at Refuge entrances. Hunters are responsible for compliance with all refuge regulations in the “Hunting” and “Public Regulations” leaflets. Private lands occur within the refuge and may be posted. Discharge of firearms is not permitted within ¼ mile of an occupied structure.

Hunting Regulations

- 1) Regulated hunting is permitted for quail, bighorn sheep, deer, cottontail rabbit, coyote, and fox. All other wildlife are protected.
- 2) State hunting licenses (for all hunting) and permits (for deer and desert bighorn sheep) are required.

- 3) The refuge is closed to the taking of predatory animals during the deer season, except that deer hunters with valid Unit 45A, 45B, and 45C deer permits may take predatory animals until they have taken a deer. Bag limits for predatory animals, quail, and cottontail are the same as State regulations.
- 4) Private lands occur within the refuge and may be posted.
- 5) Individuals may not be under the influence of alcohol while in the process of hunting.
- 6) Shooting from a vehicle is prohibited.
- 7) Cottontail may be taken with shotgun only. Deer may be taken by bow and arrow or rifle depending on the hunting season. Crossbows are not permitted for hunting on the Refuge.
- 8) Cottontails and predators (coyotes and foxes) may only be hunted during the quail season.
- 9) Persons may possess, carry, and transport firearms in accordance with all Federal and state laws. Unauthorized discharge of firearms or target practice is not permitted.
- 10) Trapping is not permitted on the refuge.

11) Hunting is allowed near water sources. Individuals should respect other hunters' privileges' and leave the area if other hunters arrive at a water source first.

12) Dogs may be off-leash when participating in quail and cottontail hunting; otherwise they must be confined or leashed.

13) Mechanized, vehicular traffic is limited to designated roads which can be identified by numbered markers at junctions. **Off-road vehicle travel is prohibited.** All motorized vehicles, including ATCs, ATVs, quadratracs and motorcycles, and all drivers must be **licensed** and **insured** for **highway** driving.

14) Camping is permitted; however, vehicles must remain within 100 feet of designated roads. Camping is not permitted within 1/4-mile of a water source. Camping is limited to 14 days within any 12 month period.

15) Littering is unlawful. Do not bury trash – wildlife will dig it up. Do not burn plastic, cans or glass (pack it out!). Bury all human waste and burn toilet paper or pack it out. Please “Leave No Trace”. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

16) Hunting seasons for the refuge are listed in current Arizona Game and Fish Department hunting regulations.

17) Recreational livestock permitted on the refuge include horses, mules, burros, and llamas. The use of feeding containers is required and water is to be packed in. All surface disturbances at campsites are to be restored. Use of pelletized feed is recommended and preferred. Livestock are not to be tethered directly to trees or other vegetation.

18) Campfires are permitted, but only *dead, down, and detached* wood may be used. Uprooting dead stumps, trees and bushes is prohibited. Dead wood may only be collected from areas on the refuge which are not designated as wilderness. Collecting wood from wilderness lands is prohibited. No wood may be removed from the refuge. Wood is scarce, you are encouraged to bring your own supply.

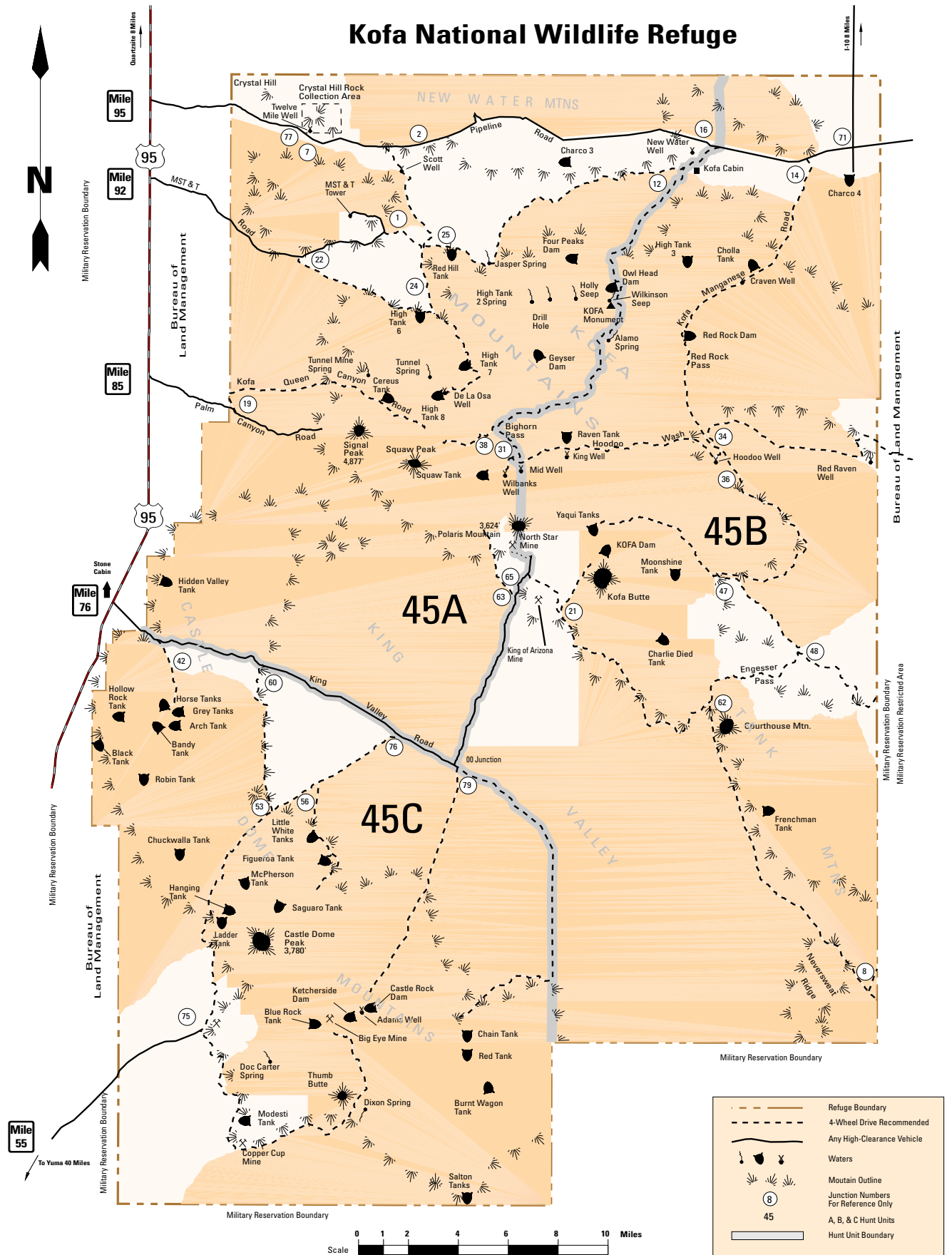
Report all injuries or accidents immediately. Please report any hunting violations you observe.

For Further Information

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kofa National Wildlife Refuge
9300 East 28th Street
Yuma, AZ 85365
928/783-7861
Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

September 2011

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9300 East 28th Street
Yuma, AZ 85365
928/783-7861
928/783-8611 Fax

Visit us on our social media websites
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Region
www.fws.gov/southwest

For relay service, please dial 711

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov

For information on the
National Wildlife Refuge System
1 800/344-9453 (WILD)

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